

REMARKS

Applicant expresses appreciation to the Examiner for consideration of the subject patent application. This amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed June 1, 2004. Claims 1-16 were rejected.

Claims 1-6, 9-13, 16 and 22-31 remain in the application. Claims 1-21 were originally presented. Claims 7, 8, 14, 15 and 17-21 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 1-3, 10, 11, 16 have been amended for clarity. Claims 2, 3, 9, 11 and 16 have been amended to be consistent with corresponding claims, and not for any reason related to patentability and without narrowing the scope thereof. New claims 22-31 have been added. Support for the new claims is clearly found in the original claims and the Figures.

Election/Restriction Requirements:

In response to the restriction requirement of May 22, 2004, the Applicant confirms the election of group I, claims 1-16, and new claims 22-31.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-16 (including independent claims 1 and 10) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Milo in view of Frame.

The Milo and Frame references, when combined, do not teach or suggest all of the elements of independent claims 1 and 10. Specifically, the Milo and Frame references do not teach an upper telescoping sleeve with an inclined upper edge with respect to a horizontal lower end.

Independent claim 1 recites:

“the upper sleeve having a horizontal lower end and an inclined upper edge with an angle with respect to the lower end greater than 0 degrees.”

Independent claim 10 recites:

“an inclined upper edge, formed at the upper end of the upper sleeve, having an angle with respect to the horizontal lower end of the upper sleeve greater than 0 degrees.”

The Milo reference does not teach an upper telescoping sleeve with an inclined upper edge with respect to a horizontal lower end, and the Frame reference does not overcome this deficiency. Combining the references simply results in a plurality of angled rings of Frame disposed on the horizontal upper sleeve of Milo. There is no teaching or suggestion in either reference to form an inclined upper edge in the upper sleeve itself.

Therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 10, and dependent claims 2-6, 9, 11-13 and 16, are allowable, and urges the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

CONCLUSION

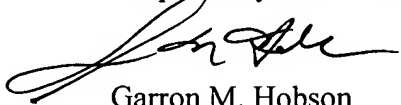
In light of the above, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-6, 9-13, 16 and 22-31 are in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicant requests that the rejections and objections be withdrawn, and that the claims be allowed and passed to issue. If any impediment to the allowance of these claims remains after entry of this Amendment, the Examiner is strongly encouraged to call Garron M. Hobson at (801) 566-6633 so that such matters may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Check No. 20379, in the amount of \$64.00, is enclosed pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a), for a one month extension of time pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.136; and for one additional claim in excess of twenty. Ten claims were added (claims 22-31), including one independent claim (claim 24), while nine claims were canceled (claims 7, 8, 14, 15 and 17-21), including one independent claim (claim 17).

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee or to credit any overpayment in connection with this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 20-0100.

DATED this 30th day of September, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,



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